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Assembly
California Legislature



TIM LESLIE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

September 2, 2004

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request that you sign into law Assembly Bill 1367 (Steinberg), which establishes a pilot project to evaluate the provision of medication management therapy services for people with HIV/AIDS.

Last year I introduced AB 987, which would have established an AIDS license plate in order to raise funds for grants to fund HIV and AIDS education and care programs among communities of color, as well as grants to fund programs for hospice care. While the bill did not pass due to the current impasse over the appropriate way to create special license plates, I learned a lot about this disease and now have a new understanding to the struggles of patients with HIV/AIDS.

While I strongly believe that HIV/AIDS is often preventable and frequently results from risky behavior, I also believe that we need to show compassion for individuals with HIV/AIDS, despite how they may have been infected. One of the things I learned while carrying AB 987 was how important the proper taking of medicine was to maintaining the health of AIDS patients. Patients take so many medications with so many differing requirements as to when they need to be taken that any disruption could render the medication ineffective and cause the person's health to deteriorate.

I understand your reasons for vetoing the augmentation for this program contained in the Budget, and I believe that Assemblyman Steinberg has resolved many of the very valid concerns you had with the original item.

Ensuring that AIDS patients are properly medicated will help save the state millions in health care costs and extend compassion to those most in need of help.

Again, I respectfully request that you sign AB 1367 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Leslie" clearly distinguishable.

TIM LESLIE
Assemblyman, Fourth District

cc: Assemblyman Steinberg
TL: kto